Fixed Tenure for Consultant Actuary

1594. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any fixed tenure for the Consultant Actuary appointed by the Employees Provident Fund Organization; and

(b) how long the present incumbent had been in the post?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The present Consultant Actuary was engaged for valuation work relating to the EDLI Scheme, the Family Pension Scheme etc. *w.e.f.* 9.1.1986. The tenure of the present Actuary has been renewed from time to time and will expire on 31.3.2001.

ESI Hospitals in Nagpur

1595. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) ESI hospitals presently functioning in Nagpur in Maharashtra with details;

(b) whether Government propose to increase their number in view of rapid industrialisation of the district; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and how Government propose to cover all the workers of the district under ESI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) There is at present a 200 bed general speciality hospital functioning in Nagpur. Keeping in view the bed occupancy the existing hospital is considered adequate for the present. The ESI Corporation has identified 7 centres in Nagpur having 19,570 workers coverable under the ESI Scheme. The medical care under the ESI Scheme is being administered by the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. Accordingly the scheme will be implemented in the identified areas as and when necessary medical arrangement is completed by the Government of Maharashtra.

EPF deduction

1596. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that 12% of the wages of the casual labourers, contract labourers and daily wage workers are deducted as EPF;

(b) if so, whether the procedure for withdrawal of the amount so deposited is cumbersome for the illiterate workers;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to simplify the same;

(d) how much unclaimed amount is outstanding with the EPF Commissioners;

(e) if the EPF contribution is not disbursed in time to the poor workers, the very purpose of EPF is defeated; and

(f) whether you have any plan to do away with this provision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (f) The rate of PF contribution is 12% of the wages in respect of all the employees including casual contract and daily labours engaged in industries/ establishments other than brick, beedi, Guar-gum, Coir & Jute industries. Total amount lying in the unclaimed deposit account as on 31.3.1999 was Rs. 108.88 crore. The provident fund money belongs to the workers including casual/contract workers. The beneficiaries claiming benefits under the scheme are required to submit their claims in the prescribed form to the commissioner through the employer of the member. The commissioner is required to settle the claims, complete in all respects, within 30 days from the date of receipt of claim in the office. The claim forms are simplified, selfcontained and easily intelligible. However, in order to help members in filling the forms facilitation centres have been opened in all the offices of the EPFO. A massive computerisation programme has been launched for providing prompt and speedy service to the subscribers. The Public Grievance and vigilance machineries have also been activated to monitor settlement of provident fund claims. The Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 provides also for payment of Family Pension and Deposit Linked Insurance in the case of death of the member. These are the minimum social security benefits needed by every wage-earner. In fact the casual and contract workers being less organised are in greater need of such social security benefits. As such the question of doing away with these beneficial provisions does not arise.